

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 BANGKO 13277 241413Z

44

ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 SSO-00 /026 W
----- 043986

P 241259Z AUG 73

FM AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 5996

S E C R E T BANGKOK 13277

EXDIS

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: MARR, TH

SUBJECT: FORCE REDUCTION TALKS: ACTION QUERIES

DEPT PASS CINCPAC AND USSAG FOR GENERAL VOGT

REF: A. STATE 161191 B. BANGKOK 13197 C. BANGKOK 13107

1. AUGUST 24 NEGOTIATIONS EXTENDED ALMOST FIVE HOURS, INCLUDING ONE HOUR PRELIMINARY WARMUP SESSION WITH LEADER OF THAI DELEGATION LTGEN KRAINGSACK, DURING WHICH HE PROVIDED US ADVANCE NOTICE OF POINTS ON HIS AGENDA AND EXPLAINED URGENCY OF REPORTING TO PRIME MINISTER AND RESPONDING TO INTEREST OF PRESS AND PUBLIC. DETAILS OF DISCUSSION BEING REPORTED SEPARATELY; FOLLOWING ARE POINTS RAISED BY THAI SIDE ON WHICH GUIDANCE IS REQUIRED URGENTLY.

2. DATE OF FIRST US WITHDRAWALS: MINDFUL THAT PRIMIN THANOM HAD ALREADY INDICATED TO PRESS THAT WITHDRAWALS WOULD START DURING AUGUST (REF C), THAI SIDE PRESSED FOR SIMILAR COMMITMENT IN JOINT STATEMENT TO PRESS. AS FALLBACK POSITION, THAIS REQUESTED SOME INDICATION OF TIMING NO LATER THAN TUESDAY AUGUST 28 FOR THANOM, USE IN REGULAR WEEKLY WEDNESDAY PRESS CONFERENCE. WE URGE AS RESPONSIVE A REPLY AS POSSIBLE, PREFERABLY CONFIRMATION THAT AT LEAST A TOKEN MOVEMENT WILL TAKE PLACE BEFORE END OF MONTH.

SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 02 BANGKO 13277 241413Z

3. DATE OF COMPLETION OF INTIAL WITHDRAWLA: THAIS ALSO REQUESTED INDICATION OF TIME FRAME DURING WHICH PRESENTLY AGREED WITHDRAWALS WILL BE COMPLETED. THIS APPEARS LESS URGENT REQUIREMENT IN THAI VIEW, AND THAIS RECOGNIZE THAT ORDERLY CLOSE OUT OF NAM PHONG IS IN PART DEPENDENT ON THAI ACCEPTANCE OF IMMOVEABLE PROPERTY AND SECURITY RESPONSIBILITY.

4. KC-135 WITHDRAWALS: THAIS INDICATED CONSIDERABLE UNEASINESS OVER FAILURE OF US SIDE TO INCLUDE KC1135 TANKERS IN FIRST TRANCHE, STATING THAT IT WOULD BE IMPOSSIBLE TO EXPLAIN TO PRESS AND PUBLIC REQUIREMENT FOR RETENTION OF THESE AIRCRAFT FOLLOWING DEPARTURE OF TACAIR SQUADRONS. WE URGE CONSIDERATION OF AT LEAST TOKEN WITHDRAWAL IN EARLY SUBSEQUENT TRANCHE.

5. B-52 WITHDRAWALS: MFA DIRECTOR OF POLITICAL AFFAIRS MADE STRONG PLEA FOR EARLY ANNOUNCEMENT OF SOME REDUCTION IN THAI-BASED B-52'S. HE STATED THAT RTG UNDERSTANDS AND SHARES OUR VIEW REGARDING THE IMPORTANCE OF US AIR POWER AS A DETERRENT TO HANOI, BUT NOTED THAT RTG WAS CONTINUALLY CONDEMNED BY HANOI, PEKING AND OTHER ASIAN GOVERNMENTS FOR PROVIDING BASES TO THE UNITED STATES FROM WHICH B-52'S ARE LAUNCHED. IN HIS VIEW B-52'S HAD BECOME A SYMBOL, WHICH LIMITED THE RTG FREEDOM OF MANEUVER WITH ITS NEIGHBORS, WITH WHOM IT MUST LIVE IN THE FUTURE. ASIAN GOVERNMENTS WOULD CONSIDER US WITHDRAWALS LIMITED TO TACAIR WERE A HOAX, UNLESS THEY WERE ACCOMPANIED BY REDUCTION OF SOME B-52 HEAVY BOMBERS STATIONED IN THAILAND. AFTER EXTENSIVE DISCUSSION THAI SIDE AGREED TO LIMIT MENTION OF B-52'S AND KC-135'S TO PHRASE REGARDING FUTURE REDUCTIONS INCLUDING STRATEGIC AIRCRAFT IN JOINT STATEMENT, BUT THAI SIDE CLEARLY EXPECTS INDICATION OF OUR THINKING AT SEPTEMBER 7 MEETING.

6. EXCESS AIRCRAFT AND EQUIPMENT: THAI SIDE MADE PRO FORMA REQUEST FOR INFORMATION WHETHER ANY US AIRCRAFT INCLUDED IN FIRST TRANCHE WOULD BE TURNED OVER TO RTG, BUT APPEARED TO ACCEPT ARGUMENT THAT ALL OF THESE TACTICAL AND SUPPORT AIRCRAFT WERE INTEGRAL TO THE UNITS BEING

SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 03 BANGKO 13277 241413Z

WITHDRAWN. HOWEVER, THIS PROVIDED OPENING FOR RAISING FOLLOWING WANT LIST: (COMMENTS SEPTTEL)
A) OV-10 AIRCRAFT TO REPLACE AGING T-28'S.
B) EC-47 TO CHECK NAVAIDS; WE EXPLAINED THAT EC-47 CONFIGURATION WAS NOT APPROPRIATE FOR THIS LIMITED PURPOSE.
C) HELICOPTERS FOR SEARCH AND RESCUE, EXPRESSING INTEREST IN CH-53 OR HH-53; WE ARGUED THAT THESE WERE EXCESSIVELY SOPHISTICATED, AND SUGGESTED POSSIBLE USE OF

HH-43'S.

D) TRANSPORT AIRCRAFT TO REPLACE C-47'S. WE NOTED THAT C-130 WAS TOO LARGE FOR THAI REQUIREMENTS. THAI COMPLAINED THAT C-123'S RECEIVED FROM US WERE VERY OLD IN POOR CONDITION.

E) HEAVY HELICOPTERS FOR RTAN SUCH AS CH-46.

F) BASE DEFENSE EQUIPMENT FOR RTAF BASES, SUCH AS ARMORED CARS, COMMUNICATIONS GEAR, ETC.

7. EXTENDING THAI SECURITY GUARDS: KRIANGSAK ASSERTED THAT DURING ORIGINAL TALKS REGARDING THAI SECURITY GUARD REGIMENT, WE HAD AGREED (ALTHOUGH THERE WAS NO RECORD OF SUCH AGREEMENT) THAT WHEN REQUIREMENT ENDED US WOULD KEEP THE GUARDS ON THE PAYROLL FOR ONE YEAR. WE POINTED OUT THAT TERMS OF CONTRACT PROVIDED FOR 90 DAY NOTICE OF TERMINATION. ARGUING PROBLEM FOR RTG IN ASSISTING SECURITY PERSONNEL TO FIND NEW JOBS, KRIANGSAK REQUESTED AMENDMENT TO PROVIDE 180 DAY NOTICE. MACTHAI SAID IT WOULD LOOK INTO SITUATION BUT GAVE NO ENCOURAGEMENT.

8. MAC COMMERCIAL CONTRACT CARRIERS: KRIANGSAK AGREED IN PRINCIPLE, DURING INTERVAL IN FORMAL TALKS, TO USE OF MAC COMMERCIAL CONTRACT CARRIERS OPERATING FROM OFF-SHORE DIRECT TO THAI BASES TO FACILITATE MOVEMENT OF PERSONNEL WITHDRAWALS; WE UNDERTOOK TO PROVIDE RTG THROUGH SUPREME HEADQUARTERS (FORWARD) ADVANCE SCHEDULES OF ALL MAC/CCC MOVEMENTS.
UNGER

NOTE BY OC/T: NOT PASSED CINCPAC AND USSAG.
SECRET

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: TROOP DEPLOYMENT, TROOP REDUCTIONS, FORCE & TROOP LEVELS, NEGOTIATIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 24 AUG 1973
Decaption Date: 28 MAY 2004
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: golinofr
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1973BANGKO13277
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: P750008-1596
From: BANGKOK
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1973/newtext/t19730815/aaaaakzs.tel
Line Count: 144
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION SS
Original Classification: SECRET
Original Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: SECRET
Previous Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Reference: 73 STATE 161191, 73 BANGKOK 13197, 13107
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: golinofr
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 05 DEC 2001
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <05-Dec-2001 by martinml>; APPROVED <27-Dec-2001 by golinofr>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: TALKS ON REDUCING MILITARY PRESENCE IN THAILAND
TAGS: MARR, US, TH
To: ES
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005